

SRI BHAKTI SIDDHANTA

TELLS
OF

THE GRAND PROCESSION

ONE SUMMER EVENING AS THE SUN TRACES ITS IMMEMORIAL PATH DOWN BEYOND THE WESTERN HILLS, THE GREAT SAINT, BHAKTI SIDDHANTA SARASWATI, SITS WITH A FEW DISCIPLES BESIDE AN OPEN FIRE...

SWAMIJI?

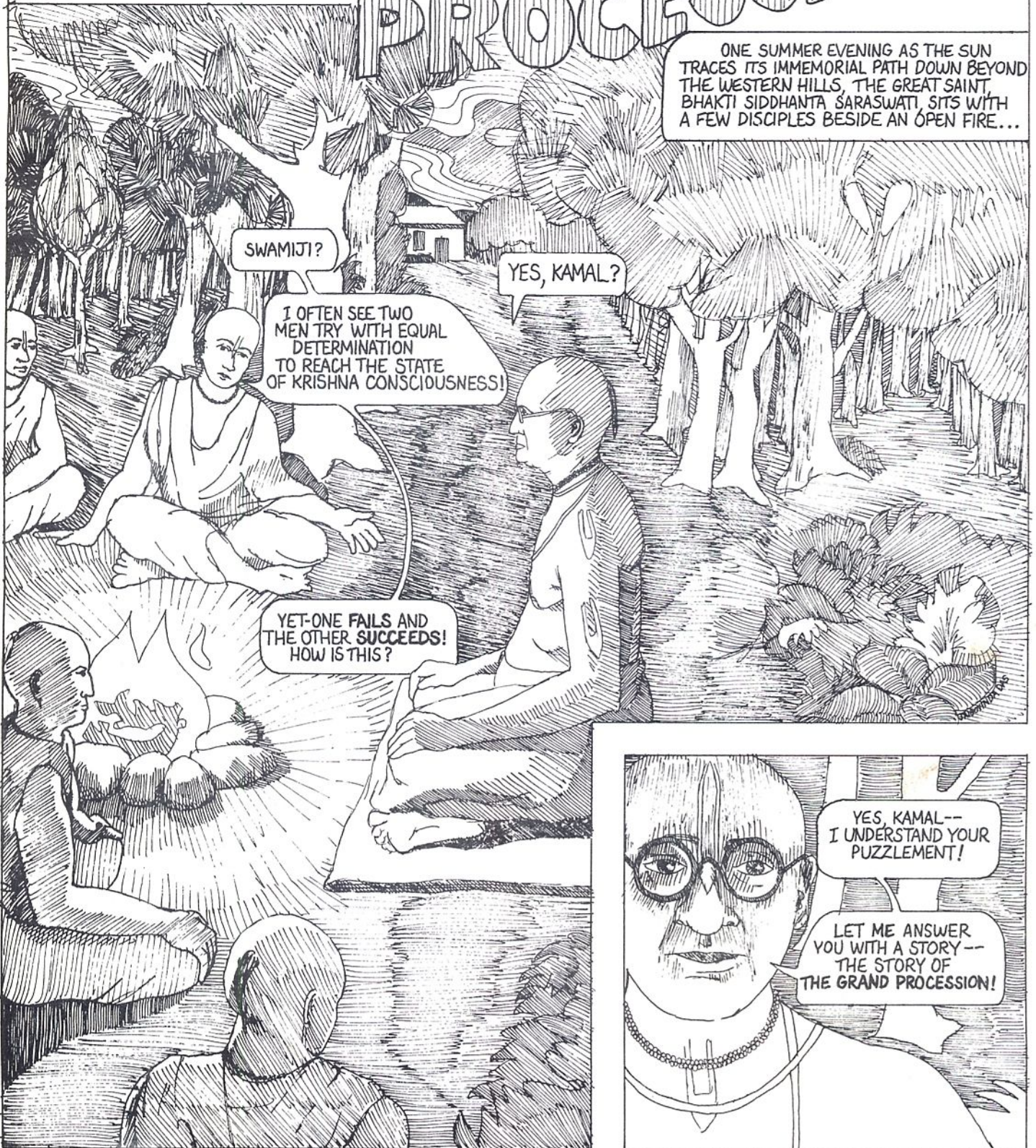
YES, KAMAL?

I OFTEN SEE TWO MEN TRY WITH EQUAL DETERMINATION TO REACH THE STATE OF KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS!

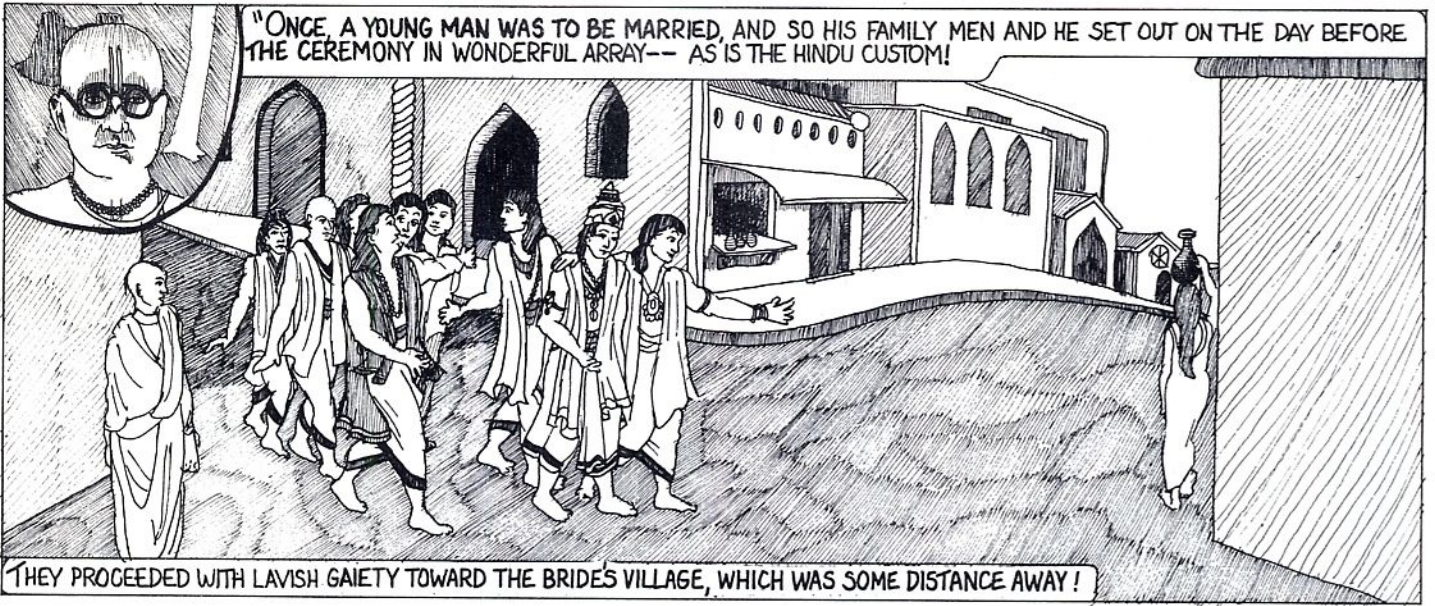
YET-ONE FAILS AND THE OTHER SUCCEEDS! HOW IS THIS?

YES, KAMAL-- I UNDERSTAND YOUR PUZZLEMENT!

LET ME ANSWER YOU WITH A STORY-- THE STORY OF THE GRAND PROCESSION!



"ONCE, A YOUNG MAN WAS TO BE MARRIED, AND SO HIS FAMILY MEN AND HE SET OUT ON THE DAY BEFORE THE CEREMONY IN WONDERFUL ARRAY-- AS IS THE HINDU CUSTOM!



THEY PROCEEDED WITH LAVISH GAIETY TOWARD THE BRIDES VILLAGE, WHICH WAS SOME DISTANCE AWAY!

"NOW IN BENGAL, WHERE THIS TOOK PLACE, THERE ARE MANY MANY RIVERS-- FOR IT IS THERE THAT THE SACRED GANGES FLOODS THE PLAIN AS IT REACHES OUT TO THE SEA-- LIKE A GRASPING HAND WITH ITS FINGERS OUTSTRETCHED.



UPON APPROACHING ONE SUCH RIVER AT NIGHTFALL..."

HO! BOATMEN!
TAKE US TO THE VILLAGE
OF GUDARA--
AND YOU WILL EARN
YOUR WEEK'S WAGES
IN ONE NIGHT!

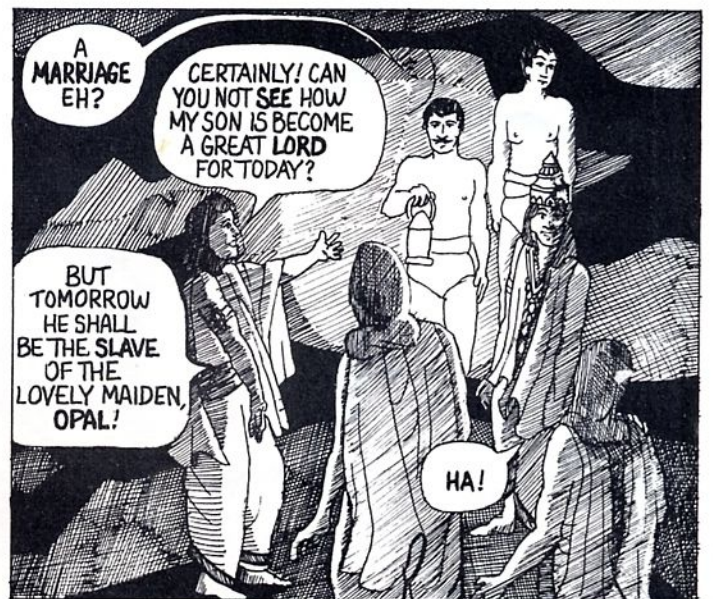


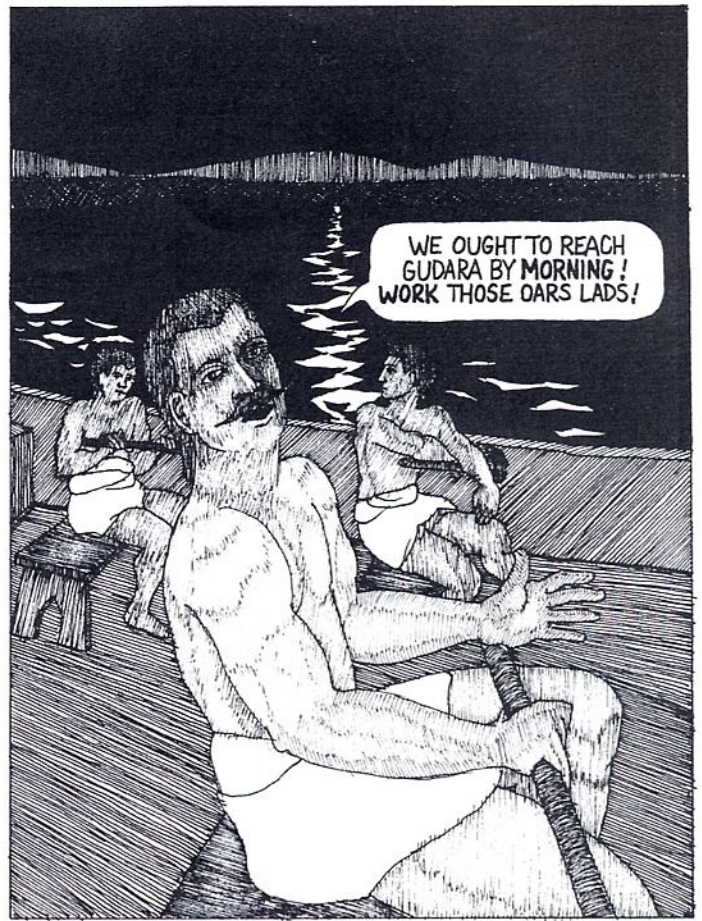
A
MARRIAGE
EH?

CERTAINLY! CAN
YOU NOT SEE HOW
MY SON IS BECOME
A GREAT LORD
FOR TODAY?

BUT
TOMORROW
HE SHALL
BE THE SLAVE
OF THE
LOVELY MAIDEN,
OPAL!

HA!





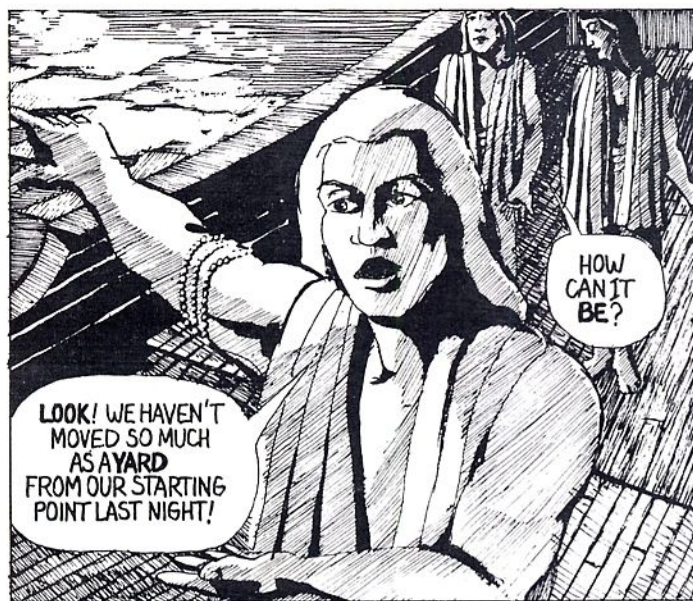
"BUT THEN, WHEN MORNING BROKE UPON THEM..."



YAWN
WHA--?
WHAT IS THE
MEANING OF THIS!!

I-- I JUST CAN'T
UNDERSTAND IT!

EH?
WHAT'S
WRONG?



LOOK! WE HAVEN'T
MOVED SO MUCH
AS A YARD
FROM OUR STARTING
POINT LAST NIGHT!

HOW
CAN IT
BE?



ARE YOU TRYING
TO AMUSE YOURSELVES
AT MY EXPENSE?
WHAT DO YOU
SAY, MAN?

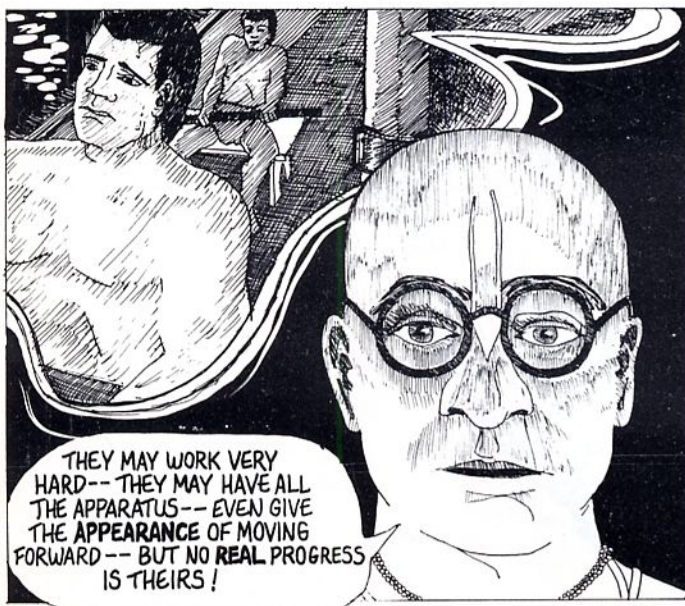
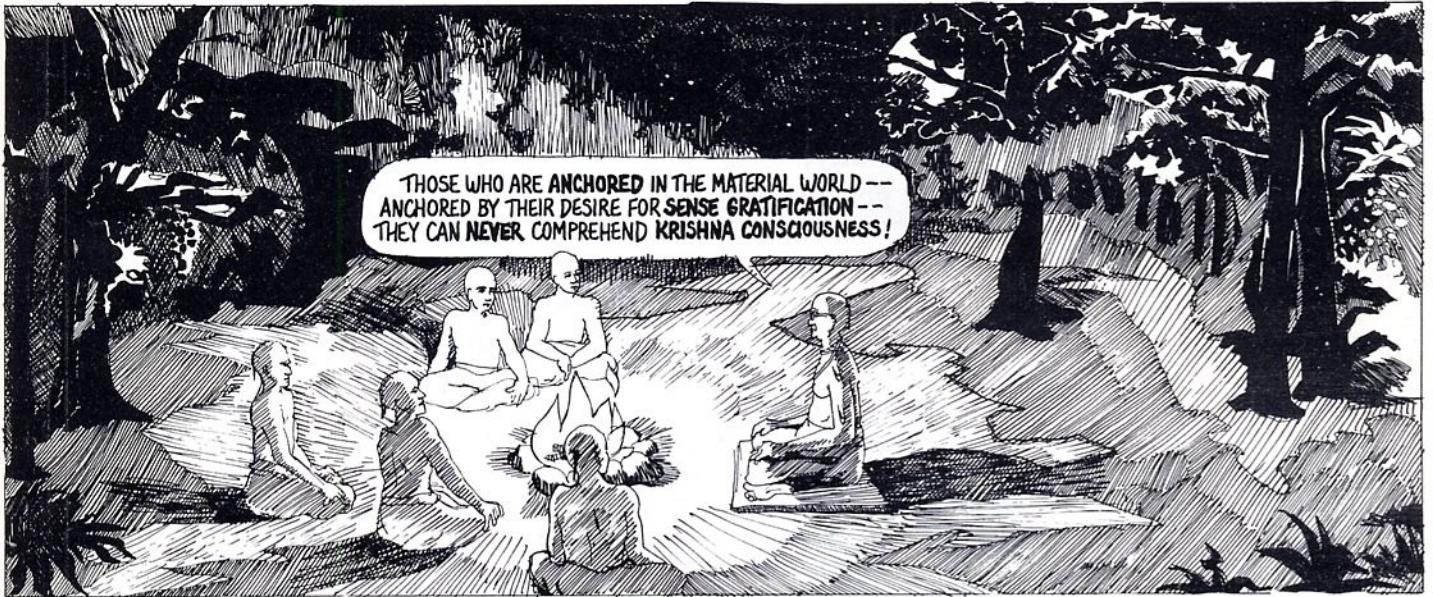
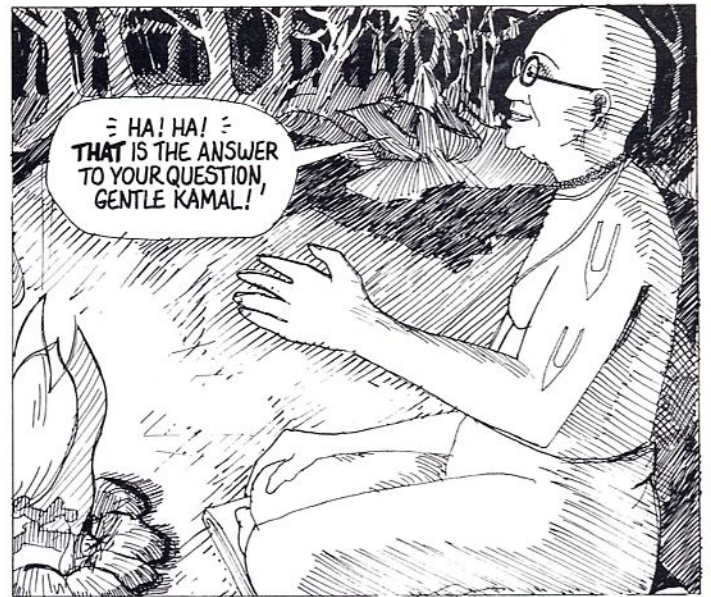
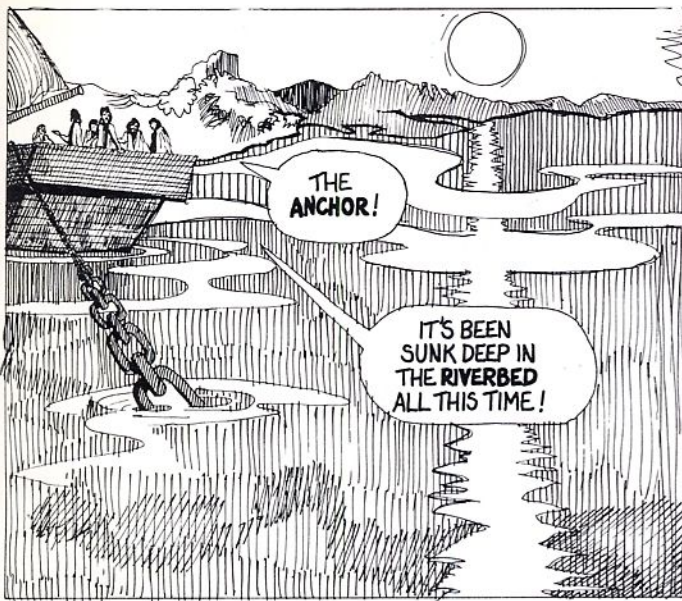
I'M MORE
BAFFLED--
AND ANGRY--
THAN YOU ARE,
MY BOY!



DON'T FORGET THAT WHILE YOU SLEPT, WE'VE BEEN
WORKING HARD-- ALL NIGHT LONG!

WE EVEN HAD THE
BREEZE TO FAVOR US!
I CANNOT--

LOOK THERE!
THERE'S
THE ANSWER!



Courtesy:

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